

Executive Summary

In February of 2006, the Transportation Planning Branch of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and Brunswick County initiated a study to cooperatively develop the Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), which includes the following municipalities: Boiling Spring Lakes, Bolivia, Calabash, Carolina Shores, Caswell Beach, Holden Beach, Northwest, Oak Island, Ocean Isle, Sandy Creek, Shallotte, Southport, St. James, Sunset Beach, Varnamtown and the Village of Bald Head. This is a long range multi-modal transportation plan that covers transportation needs through 2035. Modes of transportation evaluated as part of this plan include: highway, public transportation and rail, bicycle, and pedestrian. This plan does not cover routine maintenance or minor operations issues. Refer to Appendix A for contact information on these types of issues.

Findings of this CTP study were based on an analysis of the transportation system, environmental screening and public input, which are detailed in Chapter 1. Figure 1 shows the CTP maps, which were mutually adopted by NCDOT in 2010. Descriptive information and definitions for designations depicted on the CTP maps can be found in Appendix B. Implementation of the plan is the responsibility of the county, its municipalities, and NCDOT. Refer to Chapter 2 for information on the implementation process.

This report documents the recommendations for improvements that are included in the Brunswick County CTP. The major recommendations for improvements are listed below. More detailed information about these and other recommendations can be found in Chapter 2. Additionally, for information on recommendations from existing transportation plans that were incorporated as a part of this CTP but not documented in this report refer to Appendix I.

As of March 2013, the area west and north of, and inclusive of Varnamtown, to US 17 is in the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) Area. GSATS is the designated MPO for the Myrtle Beach – Socastee SC/NC urbanized area (see Figure ES-1). All future transportation planning and project prioritization will be the responsibility of the GSATS North Carolina Transportation Advisory Committee which is a subcommittee of the GSATS Policy Committee.

HIGHWAY

I-74: TIP Project R-3436: Proposed freeway from Columbus County to South Carolina.

Proposed I-74 / I-140 Connector: Proposed freeway from the proposed I-74 Corridor (TIP Project R-3436) to the Wilmington MPO planning boundary. It is recommended that the Wilmington MPO study and incorporate this new facility into its Long Range Transportation Plan by connecting it to the proposed I-140 Corridor.